



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

October 26, 1951.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
The University of Wisconsin,
College of Agriculture,
Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Dear Joshua:

Sorry to have bothered you about getting a copy of the collected papers. I had been sent another book by error and now have the proper volume. I think it looks very nice, but am rather surprised that it was necessary to charge so much for a paper-covered volume which involved no type-setting or author's royalties. I suppose this is largely a matter of anticipating a small sale. I haven't yet had a chance to go through your Introduction.

We are getting some sulfonamide resistant marked K-12 strains but so far haven't built up a very high level. ^{7P}Some time ago you asked me, I suppose rhetorically, about a pair of papers in the Journal of Bacteriology, and then learned that I take rhetorical questions seriously. I have already defended Yegian's paper, but have no excuses to offer for Zeller's contribution which might look like a great methodological advance over most TB research, but it certainly strains my credulity in trying to assign any clear significance to the results.

Meanwhile I would really like to get your official opinion on McElroy and Friedman's note in the same issue. I find this paper very puzzling, for if these mutants are stable enough to be analyzable in the early stages it seems to me that any competent bacteriologist should be able to find a way of keeping the double mutants going. In addition, if they had high enough population density on the surface, I don't know why they shouldn't get recombination by mixing the cultures on the plates as well as by growing them together in liquid medium.

Sincerely,

Bernard D. Davis

BDD/h1